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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 27

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## ABUNDANT GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS

Stocks of grains on farms at beginning of this year larger than any other January except 1943. Ample supplies of feed grains have helped to maintain egg and milk production at high level this winter. Corn stocks on farms January 1, were estimated 2,146 million bushels, compared with record 2,247 million two years previously; are 9 percent above year ago and a third above average. Wheat stocks on farms 392 1/2 million bushels, second largest on record, and compare with 283 million year ago. Oats stocks 750 million bushels, against 705 million year ago, present stocks being 6 percent above last year and 15 percent above ten year average. Current barley stocks 158 million bushels, smallest since 1939. Soybeans on hand 42 1/2 million bushels, compared with 57 1/4 million year ago.

## SLIGHTLY MORE CATTLE ON FEED

Number of cattle on feed for market January 1 was about 5 percent larger than year previous. Estimated number on feed this year 4,173,000 head, compared with 3,967,000 year ago, and 4,445,000, the all-time record at beginning of 1943.

In 12 Cornbelt States number on feed this year 3,373,000 head, 6 percent larger than year ago but 5 percent below 1943 record. Total number on feed outside Cornbelt this year estimated 800,000 head, an increase of 2 percent over year previous.

## RECORD EGG OUTPUT LAST YEAR - FEWER AHEAD

Estimated 337,947,000 young chickens in farm flocks on January 1, this being 16 percent under year previous, although 16 percent above 10 year average (1934-43). Number of pullets on farms January 1 were 295,209,000, about 14 percent below previous year. Of these latter, 85 percent were of laying age; other 15 percent to be added to flocks this winter. Number of laying age 10 percent smaller than year ago. Total potential layers 463,226,000, about 10 percent less than year ago, although 19 percent above ten year average.

December egg production was largest ever known. Total egg production during year 1944 was slightly under 57 1/2 billion eggs - a record, exceeding 1943 by 6 percent and 51 percent above ten year average. The output per layer on hand during 1944 was 147 eggs, compared with 142 in 1943 and ten year average of 130.

## BUTTER SUPPLIES SHRINKING

Butter production last year was about 1,490 million pounds. For 1945 it is expected to be around 1,425 to 1,450 million pounds. Creamery butter production in recent months has been 6 to 8 percent smaller than a year earlier. Butter inventories January 1 were 61 million pounds compared with 155 million pounds year previous. Commercially owned stocks now negligible. Twenty percent of February butter and 25 percent of March will be set aside for Government. Apparent amount of creamery butter available for civilians this year will be around 1,100 million pounds, compared with about 1,190 million for civilians out of last year's production. In brief, butter supplies are far short of demand.

## LESS FAT IN SIGHT

Food fats for civilians apparently will be about 2.5 to 3 pounds per capita less this year than last (roughly 6% less), chiefly as a result of smaller lard and butter supplies and large lend-lease and military needs.

Output of lard and rendered pork fat in 1945 expected to total about 2.4 billion pounds, around 850 million less than in 1944. However, stocks of lard in December were 382 million pounds, 221 million greater than year previous. Recent set-aside order on lard takes approximately 60 percent of federally inspected production.

Supply of soap fats and rosin will be smaller in 1945. Total output of inedible tallow and greases this year expected around 1,820 million pounds, about 150 million less than last year. More cattle slaughtered will increase tallow supply but will not offset decline in greases due to reduced hog production.

## SLIGHTLY SMALLER ORANGE AND GRAPEFRUIT CROPS

Orange output for 1944-45 season, for entire United States, forecast at 102,848,000 boxes. Crop last season was slightly larger, 103,056,000 boxes; but the 1942-43 crop was only 85,149,000 boxes and the 1933-42 average 67,937,000 boxes. Florida tangerine production expected to total 4 million boxes, 11 percent more than 1943-44 crop but 5 percent under record in 1942-43. This year's grapefruit crop indicated as 48,741,000 boxes, compared with 55,979,000 boxes last season and 10 year average

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	DEC. 15 1944	JAN. 15 1945	JAN. 15 1945
Wheat, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.45	1.46	1.52
Corn, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.06	1.07	1.10
Oats, bu. . . . .	dol. .69	.72	.686
Cotton, lb. . . . .	ct. 20.85	20.20	21.33
Potatoes, bu. . . . .	dol. 1.50	1.58	1.25
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 13.40	13.80	12.50
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 11.50	11.70	9.32
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 12.90	13.20	11.60
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 12.40	13.00	10.10
Butterfat, lb. . . . .	ct. 51.0	50.9	47.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . . . .	dol. 3.39	3.35	2.91
Chickens, live, lb. . . . .	ct. 24.1	24.2	19.6
Eggs, doz. . . . .	ct. 44.5	41.0	37.4

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



of 32,858,000 boxes. Prospective California lemon crop 13,321,000 boxes—well above last year and average.

#### SUGAR OUTPUT ROSE IN 1944

Distribution of sugar for civilian and military consumption in Continental United States, during 1944, totaled 7,128,131 short tons (raw value), 13 percent more than in 1943. This was largest on record except for 1941. Cane sugar refineries supplied three-fourths of sugar distributed in 1944, as compared with slightly more than two-thirds in 1943. Amount distributed by sugar beet processors decreased from 22 percent of the total in 1943 to 16 percent in 1944.

#### WHERE ARE THE CIGARETTES?

Total cigarette output during 1944 was approximately 320 billion cigarettes, about 25 billion more than in 1943 and the largest number ever produced in any year. The increase in cigarette production since 1940 has been roughly 70 percent. Tax-paid withdrawals of cigarettes from manufacturing plants and bonded warehouses during 1944 estimated at 240 billion. Present monthly rate of domestic consumption, as measured by tax-paid withdrawals, running considerably below year earlier (November withdrawal was 20.6 billion, a decline of 15 percent over previous November).

Domestic manufacture of smoking tobacco is at the lowest level in many years. Production of smoking tobacco during first 10 months of 1944 totaled 109 million pounds, a decline of about 18 percent below the 133 million in like period of 1943. Appears likely, however, that the low point in smoking tobacco consumption has been passed.

#### NUTS

Crop of pecans in 1944 estimated 141,865,000 pounds, 7 percent above previous record crop of 1943 and 54 percent above 10-year average (1933-42). Largest increase was in wild or seedling pecans in Texas and Louisiana. Last year's output of these (84½ million pounds) was 59 percent of total for all pecans.

The 1944 crop of "English" walnuts in California and Oregon was 69,200 tons, 8.5 percent more than 1943 and 26.6 percent above ten-year average. California almond production last year, 20,700 tons, 29 percent greater than 1943 and about 55 percent above average. Filbert crop in Washington and Oregon, 6,560 tons, 17 percent under 1943 but 136 percent above average.

#### FARM WORKERS FEWEST EVER—WAGES HIGHEST

The farm labor situation made two new records on January 1: Employment reached a new all-time low for the season, whereas

wages stood at an all-time high. Total number of farm workers January 1 was 8,005,000, about 2 percent below previous January, 9 percent under January 1935-39 average, and smallest figure in the 21 years of record. Total number of hired workers 1,434,000, compared with 1,580,000 a year ago, and 1,675,000 average. Number of family workers on farms January 1 was 6,571,000, a decline of 10 percent under December 1 (this being twice the average decline during December), and likewise the lowest figure of family workers in 21 years of record.

Farm wages January 1 averaged the highest on record for the season. The U. S. average farm wage per day, without board, \$4.15, compared with \$3.50 a year ago, \$1.50 the 1935-39 January average, and \$1.42 the 1910-14 January average. Farm wage per month, without board, \$89 this January, compared with \$76 a year ago, \$34 in 1935-39, and \$29 in 1910-14.

#### LESS MEAT THIS YEAR

Total production of dressed meat in 1944 estimated 24.7 billion pounds, some 500 million above previous record in 1943. Armed services and lend-lease took about one-fourth of it. Civilian consumption averaged about 147 pounds per capita, highest in 20 year. Expected total meat production in 1945 may be about 10 percent below last year. Government takings probably will continue large. Civilian consumption this year may stand at per capita rate of 128 to 133 pounds. The 1935-39 average was 126 pounds per capita.

#### MARKETING CHARGES DOWN SLIGHTLY

Charges for marketing a family basket of farm foods dropped from \$220 in November to \$219 in December. This decline continued the gradual downward trend since last July, when marketing charges were \$231. The estimate of marketing charges includes about \$12 of Government payments to food marketing agencies.

The farmer's share of the consumer's dollar spent for farm food products reached 55 cents in December, matching the record high in April 1918. Farmer's share did not fall below 52 cents any month in 1944.

#### FARM INCOME

Total receipts from farm products sold during January \$1,630,000 compared with \$1,628,000 year ago. This income figure includes \$70,000,000 of government payments this January, compared with \$92,000,000 year ago.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142—Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JANUARY 1945
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	201
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	172
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . .	1910-14 = 100	163
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 176
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	324
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 423
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JAN. - AVERAGE	JANUARY 1945
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.2	12.9
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	25.5	26.2
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.31	1.52
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.7	14.3
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN.-DEC. 1943	JAN.-DEC. 1944
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	118.1	119.2
Eggs, (Bil.) . . . . .	54.2	57.5
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	5,970	6,655
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	958	887
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . . .	12,161	12,698
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	19,686	21,166

<sup>1</sup>November figure.

<sup>2</sup>Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. November figure.